



NEWS RELEASE

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Kiowa County Courthouse Project Receives USDA Rural Development Funding **Ceremonial Check presented at Kiowa County Commission Meeting**

Greensburg, KS – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today presented a ceremonial check totaling \$2,223,000 in USDA *Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program* funding to the Kiowa County Commissioners for renovations and improvements to the Kiowa County Courthouse that was severely damaged by an EF-5 tornado that struck Greensburg on May 4, 2007. The Courthouse project is a cornerstone to Kiowa County's rebuilding efforts.

State Director Banks commented during the check presentation, "The renovations and improvements to the Courthouse are vital to the redevelopment of Kiowa County and Greensburg. This building stood strong through the devastating storm of last year, and it continues to be a landmark of strength and perseverance for the people of this community and Kiowa County. This is a remarkable building that you can be proud of and after the renovations, all of Kansas can be even more proud of what it represents."

Commissioner Gene West said, "We are pleased to announce that the Courthouse will begin extensive renovations in the next few days. USDA Rural Development has been a strong partner with the County and our community over the months leading up to this funding announcement. This is just the beginning of our rebuilding as we have other County rebuilding projects on the drawing board that we are proceeding to get into construction as soon as possible."

The total cost of the Courthouse project will be approximately \$4,941,200, with \$2,223,000 from USDA Rural Development's *Community Facilities Programs* and \$2,718,200 coming from other sources. USDA funding consists of a Community Facilities Loan of \$300,000 and Community Facilities Grant of \$1,923,000. Other sources include, insurance proceeds, FEMA, KDEM, County contribution and donations.

USDA Rural Development's *Community Facilities Programs* are designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, courthouses, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue facilities and equipment, police and emergency vehicles and services, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

Through its *Community Facilities Programs*, USDA's goal is to ensure that such facilities are readily available to all rural communities. Community Facilities Programs utilizes three flexible financial tools to achieve this goal: the Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program, the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program, and the Community Facilities Grant Program.

During today's announcement, State Director Banks thanked the Kansas Congressional Delegation for their continued support of the Agency's *Community Facilities Programs*, along with the many other USDA Rural Development programs. "Over the past seven years alone, the Agency's *Community Facilities Programs* have assisted over 590,000 rural Kansans and contributing \$32.5 million in added community development to the Sunflower State's economy.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for rural Americans. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in

homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America.

Since 2001, USDA Rural Development has delivered over \$1.2 billion to Kansans covering all Agency programs, supporting well over \$6 billion in future economic development for the Sunflower State. For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

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